


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

16 DEC 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCID 1/2 Committee Members

FROM:

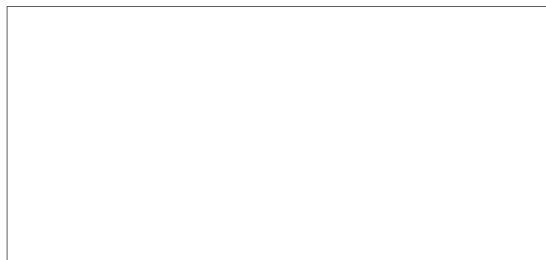

DCID 1/2 Coordinator

STAT

SUBJECT: Transmittal of DCID 1/2 Committee Working Paper (U)

The attached working paper will be considered at our meeting on Thursday morning. It is intended solely to aid our Committee discussion and decision about what, if any, procedural changes might be desirable to accommodate temporary priority measures.

STAT



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DCID 1/2 Committee Working Paper

SUBJECT: Temporary Priority Increases (TPI)

The DCID 1/2 Committee proposes to establish a facility for the assignment of priority increases on a temporary and more narrowly defined basis than current procedures permit. The facility will be an adjunct of the current priorities matrix and is designed to accommodate significant intelligence needs of a transitory nature. Its use is intended to smooth the impact of such needs on the DCID 1/2 priorities register which, to maximize its planning guidance value, should primarily reflect enduring relative priority relationships. Transitory intelligence needs, in the present context, are those which are not expected to require indefinitely the priority level being requested. Most frequently, they reflect the occurrence of extraordinary circumstances or events involving countries/topics which normally bear relatively low priority. A recent example is the revision of

25X1

Currently, all DCID 1/2 priorities are valid for an indefinite period once assigned. The committee operates under the tacit assumption that it will be advised when and if a priority needs to be changed. In practice, such advice is given with relative frequency on the upside, rarely on the downside. Thus, excessive priority escalation is not simply a result of cumulative priority increases, but also of the absence of timely and systematic recission of earlier increases justified by situations and issues which no longer signify or have become less significant relative to other situations and issues. The proposed TPI facility would address this problem by (1) providing a mechanism for dealing with intelligence needs known or

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

suspected at the outset of being of a transitory nature, and (2) incorporating automatic recission and rejustification provisions that will restore lower priority levels when earlier increases are no longer merited.

The proposed facility would consist of three listings (A, B and C) which will be supplements to the basic DCID 1/2 priorities matrix. Line entries would comprise the following data elements.

<u>Country</u>	The country or countries affected by the temporary priority increase.
<u>Topic(s)</u>	The DCID 1/2 topic or topics to which the transitory intelligence need relates.
<u>Need</u>	A brief, specific statement of the intelligence need accorded the temporary priority increase.
<u>Expiration</u>	The date the temporary priority increase expires

Inscription on List A would signify that the priority assignments(s) for country/topic(s) indicated have been raised to Level 2 until the stated expiration date. The temporarily increased priority would be applicable only to those aspects of the indicated topics encompassed by the statement of need. List B would provide a temporary Priority Level 3; List C, a level 4. A TPI on List A would have a maximum three month duration; List B, six months; List C, a year. It would expire automatically at the end of the assigned duration period but could be renewed once upon rejustification.

SECRET

SECRET

Establishment of a TPI would not change the basic DCID 1/2 priority matrix which would continue to reflect the baseline priorities for the countries/topic covered. These priorities, which might be several levels lower, would be automatically reinstituted when the TPI expired or was terminated by committee action.

The anticipated effect of these provisions would be to shift the impact of near term (a year or less) relative priority increases to the new facility, permitting the basic DCID 1/2 priorities matrix to accurately reflect longer term priority relationships and trends. Priority changes reflecting the latter would continue to affect the matrix directly.

Procedures for requesting and assigning TPIs would be the same as those currently used for other DCID 1/2 Committee action. Nominations for TPIs that seek to frequently alter priorities to support active current intelligence needs would not be considered.

SECRET